



## God's Spirit changes our will and actions

Galatians 5:13-26

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

In the previous chapters of the Letter to the Galatians, Paul showed us that the gospel of Jesus Christ creates a new, multinational family that brings together Jewish and pagan Christians. The good news invites everyone and only faith in Jesus justifies us before God. In doing so, he responds to the law, which on the one hand is a guideline for the people of Israel, but on the other hand shows Israel its sinfulness. But the law did not have the power to teach Israel to obey God. In the new covenant, sealed by Jesus, the core message of the old covenant remains the same, which is reflected in the quotation from Leviticus 19:18: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Now it is God's Spirit that prompts us to imitate Jesus love in encounters with people. From now on, obedience to God, which could not be achieved by the law, should take place out of God's spirit itself. Jesus is our example because he served unconditionally. You may be wondering how you can get this spirit at all. I often feel the same way. The Galatian letter itself gave me an inspiring answer, which is in Chapter 2, Verses 19-20. The awareness that Jesus Christ lives in me through my faith changes my will and my doing. From this point of view, as the rest of the section says, we will live in the fruits of the Spirit and turn away from human selfishness.

Book recommendation: Major W. Ian Thomas (founder of "Fackelträger"): *The Saving Life of Christ*

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, I ask you to strengthen my belief in you and to show me again and again that you live in me. Thank you for dying with me and rising with you. Amen.*

**-Sven Küspert-**

